

Hot or Not: The Screencast Edition

In this section of the class, you will be presented with the opportunity to watch and evaluate a small selection of screencasts.

Learning Objectives

- Watch a selection of screencasts
 - Appreciate that most screencasts use the .swf (flash) format
 - Evaluate screencast quality in terms of content and production
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Evaluation criteria for screencasts

A Screencast could be judged as **high quality** where:

- The topic is presented in an interesting and imaginative way
- The content is well-structured and organized
- Sources for further information (websites and email) are included
- (optional) Vocals are clear without unnecessary background noise and/or popping
- (optional) Narrators are clearly heard above background music and effects
- (optional) Any audio effects are used to enhance the content and presentation
- Smooth visual edits are evident in transitions between segments

A Screencast could be judged as **satisfactory quality** where:

- The topic is presented in an appropriate and relevant way
- The content is suitably structured and organized
- Further information (websites and email) are referred to
- (optional) Vocals are audible and without distortion
- (optional) Narrators can be heard above background music and effects

A Screencast could be judged as **poor quality** where:

- The topic is presented in a tedious and uninteresting way
- The content is unstructured and disorganized
- No sources for further information (websites and email) are included
- (optional) Vocals are inaudible or distorted
- (optional) Narrators cannot be heard above background music and effects
- (optional) Any audio effects detract from the content and presentation
- (optional) Rough visual edits are evident in transitions between segments

Screencasts for evaluation purposes can be found in two places:

1. In the Moodle site for the Screencasting class (<http://nnlm.gov/moodle>)
2. <http://delicious.com/gmrtechcoord/screencast.example>



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Screencast:

When you watch a Screencast, consider some of these options below for evaluation purposes. Even though the questions are mostly “Yes/No,” please expand on your answer for class discussion.

Evaluation Questions	Evaluation Criteria Rating (high, satisfactory, poor)	Thoughts for discussion
1. Did the screencast include content that you would deem useful or relevant?		
2. Were the technical qualities (audio, slides, etc.) acceptable in the production?		
3. If there was audio, was there a written transcript of the screencast available?		
4. Was the length of the screencast appropriate for the content?		
5. Was the screencast part of a regularly scheduled series?		
6. Did the screencast content flow smoothly (introduction, content, summary)?		
7. In your own words describe the screencast you watched and its attributes.		

Technical notes

To watch the following screencasts you will need to have the following software installed on your computer and enabled in your web browser:

- *Javascript (usually installed by default but may need to be enabled in your web browser preferences).*
- *QuickTime - this cross-platform software can be downloaded from the Apple website (the link opens in a new window).*

If you are using a computer on a network you may need to check with the network manager and ask whether the software is available and installed as you may be prevented from downloading and installing software yourself.